

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-12 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1, 5, 6 and 10-12 being independent.

Initially, Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 1-5 are allowed and Claim 7 is indicated as containing patentable subject matter.

In order to expedite prosecution, Claim 6 has been amended to include the features of Claim 7, which is cancelled. In addition, even though Claims 10-12 are newly presented for consideration, these claims are based on Claims 1, 5 and 6, respectively, and thus are also submitted to be allowable.

In addition, independent Claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended to delete reference to the refractive index of the dichroic film. It is submitted that amending the claims in this manner does not alter their allowed status.

The amendments to the claims were not presented earlier as it was believed that the previously presented claims would be found allowable. Although this Amendment adds additional claims, it will be readily apparent that the new claims are based on allowable subject matter and thus should be allowed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that entry of the Amendment is appropriate.

Claims 6, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over admitted art in view of Muraji '797. Without conceding to the propriety of this rejection, Claim 6 has been amended to include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, this rejection is deemed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

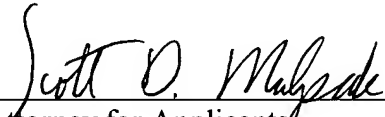
Therefore, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in Claims 1-6, 8 and 9 is patentable over the cited art.

Newly submitted independent Claims 10-12 are based on allowed Claims 1, 5 and 6, respectively, but differ by reciting the refractive index of the dichroic film (the feature deleted from Claims 1, 5 and 6) varies in a substantially horizontal direction. Accordingly, it is submitted that Claims 10-12 are also allowable.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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